

Bagging Plastic (p. 6)

- ❶ In January, Los Angeles became the largest U.S. city to
 - a require the recycling of plastic shopping bags.
 - b require that plastic bags be made from domestic natural gas instead of foreign oil.
 - c ban plastic shopping bags.
 - d put a tax on plastic shopping bags.
- ❷ According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans recycle about ____ of their plastic waste.
 - a 3 percent
 - b 9 percent
 - c 35 percent
 - d 70 percent
- ❸ A huge vortex of plastic waste and other trash floats in the ____ and can swell to twice the size of Texas.
 - a Atlantic Ocean between North America and Europe
 - b Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana
 - c Pacific Ocean near northern Alaska
 - d Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii
- ❹ Which of these is NOT an argument made by the plastic bag industry?
 - a Banning plastic bags across the U.S. could jeopardize 30,000 jobs.
 - b Many Americans reuse plastic bags.
 - c Plastic bags break down in landfills in just weeks.
 - d Plastic bags are more practical than reusable cloth bags.
- ❺ The Shopping Bag Freedom Act, recently proposed in Texas, would
 - a ban plastic bags statewide to protect wildlife.
 - b keep the government from banning plastic bags.
 - c fund research into biodegradable plastic bags.
 - d require stores to sell reusable shopping bags.
- ❻ According to the article, ____ is one of several nations that ban plastic shopping bags nationwide.
 - a China
 - b Canada
 - c Japan
 - d France

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶ Do you think plastic bag bans are an example of government overreach? Why or why not?
- ❷ What are some "market forces" sometimes used to discourage plastic bag use? Do you think they're effective? Explain.
- ❸ Why do you think it's hard for some people to stop using plastic shopping bags?